

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00191 220912Z

20

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /051 W

----- 120594

R 220730Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1738

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, US

SUBJ: RUMORED REPLACEMENT OF WALI OF ALGIERS

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIAL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INFORMED US THAT WALI OF ALGIERS, SLIMAN HOFFMAN, IS TO BE REPLACED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR TO HANOI, ABDEREZAK BOUHARA, WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HOFFMAN'S NEXT ASSIGNMENT WOULD BE AND DID NOT COMMENT ON POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, IF ANY, OF MOVE.

2. COMMENT: THIS MOVE HAS BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME AND WHEN ANNOUNCED LIKELY GENERATE GOOD DEAL OF SPECULATION THAT HOFFMAN IS VICTIM INTERNECINE QUARREL WITHIN GOA. THIS, TOGETHER WITH CONTINUED ABSENCE FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA (ALTHOUGH WE TOLD HE COMING HERE FOR OPEC MEETING) WILL BE ENOUGH FEED DIPLOMATIC RUMOR MILL FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. AS OF THIS MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE EXPLAINING REASONS FOR HOFFMAN'S TRANSFER. IT COULD CONCEIVABLY BE ON GROUNDS CORRUPTION, OR BECAUSE HE HAS NOT DONE WELL ENOUGH AT MANAGING THIS CITY, OR BECAUSE HIS LOYALTY IN DOUBT, OR BECAUSE ALL THE WALIS ARE BEING CHANGED. IT COULD EVEN BE THAT HE IS DESTINED FOR PROMOTION TO MINISTERIAL POSITION. WHATEVER REASON, HOFFMAN HAS BEEN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN ALGERIAN INNER CIRCLE AND ANYTHING AFFECTING HIS CAREER LIKELY HAVE SOME POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. PARKER

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Message Attributes

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